

Did you know?



■ Ashok Kumar and Kishore Kumar acted as brothers in reel-life for the first time in an AVM Production film titled *Bhai Bhai*. The movie was directed by M V Raman.

■ Dada Kondke's real name was Krishan. While he was growing up in Parel, he acquired the reputation of a goon and was popularly known as Bhandwale Dada. Later, he rose to unprecedented heights, securing a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the largest number of silver jubilees — in a row — in Marathi films. Dada Kondke, the king of double entendre, complete with his trademark half-pants was introduced by veteran film-maker Bhalji Pendharkar in the film

Songadya

■ Basu Chatterjee's *Rajanigandha* was based on *Yehi Sach Hai* a story by Manu Bhandari. Basuda had planned to retain the original title but it was registered with B R Ishara. Hence, he settled for *Rajanigandha*. The film was produced by Suresh Jindal for Devki Chitra. This film also marked Amol Palekar's debut in Hindi cinema. And it established his screen image as a bumbling, common-man hero. It was also Chatterjee's

entry into mainstream Hindi cinema, encouraging the notion that low-budget art house films could be commercially successful. Actor Dinesh Thakar was paid just Rs 3,500 for his role while Lata Mangeshkar was paid Rs 1,000 for the songs. But she was so impressed with the music that she even returned this amount.

■ Hema Malini started dancing at the tender age of six. And she performed in front of luminaries like President Eisenhower,

Queen Elizabeth, Pandit Nehru and Dr Radhakrishnan. She had given as many as 400 public dance performances while still in her teens — a rare achievement. As chance would have it, leading film magnate B Ananthaswami watched one of her performances. He was so impressed with her that he immediately signed her for his maiden production, *Sapnon Ka Saudagar* (1968) opposite Raj Kapoor.

■ Mahipal, the famous mythological hero of the '50s and the '60s was born on November 24, 1911. He started his career as a lyric writer for Hindi films and wrote for *Aap Ki Sewa Main* (1947), *Adalat* (1948), *Mera Lal* (1948) and the title song for *Mali* (1944).

